

# Indiana African Americans and Smoking

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Each year, approximately 45,000 African Americans die from a preventable smoking-related disease. Smoking significantly elevates the risk of stroke, heart disease and cancers, the leading causes of death in the Indiana.

Stroke rate is twice as high among African Americans as among Whites. Stroke and hypertension contribute to cardiovascular disease deaths, and 21% of all coronary heart disease deaths in the U.S. are due to smoking. Tobacco is the cause of 63% of cancer deaths among black men in the US, and cancer death rates among African American males would decline by two-thirds if they didn't smoke.

Data shown here are adult smoking rates for African Americans in Indiana compared with the U.S. This data illustrates the great burden smoking places on all Hoosiers.

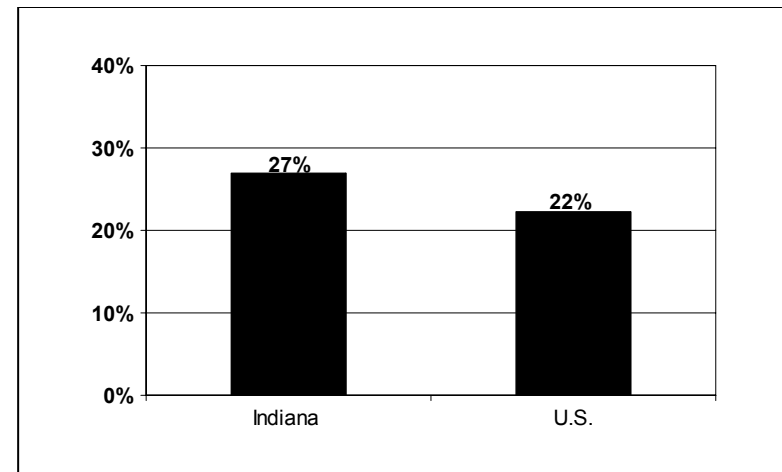
## Smoking Rates for African Americans, Indiana vs. U.S.

- The smoking rate for Hoosier African Americans is higher than that for U.S. African Americans.
- The smoking rate for African Americans in Indiana (27%) is higher than the smoking rates for all other race/ethnic groups in Indiana.

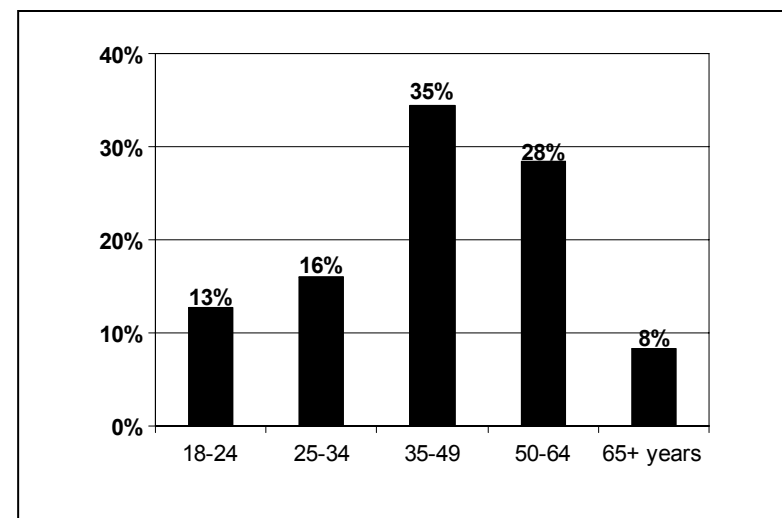
## Indiana African American Smoking Rates by Age

- The smoking rate for 18 to 24 year old African Americans is lower than the smoking rate for other age groups.
- African Americans ages 35-49 have the greatest proportion of smokers.
- A significantly larger proportion of younger (18 to 24) African Americans reported to never have smoked cigarettes than their peers in other race/ethnic groups.

**Smoking Rates for African Americans, Indiana vs. U.S.**



**Indiana African American Smoking Rates by Age**

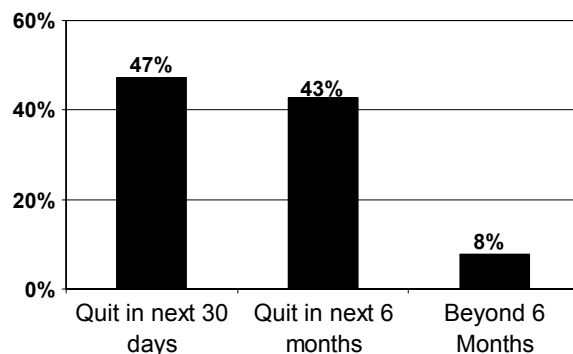


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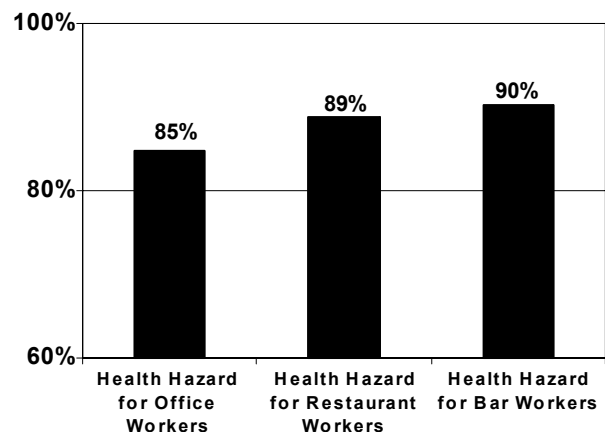
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## Quit Intentions of Hoosier African Americans



## Beliefs of Hoosier African Americans about Second Hand Smoke in the Workplace



## Quit Intentions of Hoosier African Americans

- A greater proportion of African American smokers plan to quit smoking in the next six months compared to other race/ethnic groups.
- Eighty-three percent (83%) of African American smokers reported a quit attempt in the last twelve months. This percentage is significantly higher than White smokers' reported quit attempts.
- African American smokers were over 40% more likely than Whites to report intentions to quit smoking.

## Indiana African Americans' Attitudes on Smoke Free Policy

- African Americans were more likely to believe that secondhand smoke is very harmful to one's health compared to members of other race/ethnic groups.
- A greater proportion of African Americans in Indiana believe that smoking should not be allowed in any work areas than did other race/ethnic groups.
- In comparison to members of other communities, members of the African American community expressed greater support for banning smoking in restaurants, as well as bars and lounges, than members of other race/ethnic groups.

Approximately three of every four African American smokers prefer menthol cigarettes. Menthol may facilitate absorption of harmful cigarette smoke constituents. African Americans typically smoke fewer cigarettes per day but suffer more from smoking-related diseases than Whites.